

UN's most basic purposes, it was quickly recognized that it would be necessary to further elaborate these fundamental freedoms in order to ensure their protection. The resulting document—the Universal Declaration of Human Rights—has since served as the foundation upon which all other human rights work at the international level has stood. It remains to this day an enduring guide for human rights advocates around the globe.

This has been an exciting and dramatic year that will be remembered for the triumphs of the Arab Spring. The fall of so many dictators who have been responsible for the deaths, torture, and other atrocities meted out against so many has opened up the exhilarating prospect of real reform and meaningful human rights improvements. But the final chapter of the Arab Spring has not yet been written, and nothing can be taken for granted.

Progress in this field is not necessarily linear. As Ronald Reagan said in his inaugural address, "Freedom is a fragile thing and is never more than one generation away from extinction."

I believe it is especially critical, at this historic moment, for the United States to remain vigilant in the protection and promotion of human rights—abroad and at home.

Overseas, the United States must continue to use our voice to speak on behalf of those silenced by brutal regimes. We must continue to lift up those who cannot stand on their own. And while we must inevitably pursue a multifaceted foreign-policy that advances American goals in a broad range of areas including hard security and the economy, we must never treat human rights as something expendable.

I take particular note of the countries that stand shoulder to shoulder with us in that effort. I welcome Polish Foreign Minister Radek Sikorski's call for a "European endowment for democracy," similar to the National Endowment for Democracy which the United States has supported since 1983. I commend Poland for the leadership it has shown on human rights issues during its presidency of the European Union.

In all of these efforts, the role of civil society remains critical. On the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations adopted a declaration on the rights of human rights defenders. They are the first line of defense and they often pay the highest price.

There are, unfortunately, too many cases of human rights defenders who are imprisoned, persecuted or worse, for me to raise them all here. But I would like to mention one in particular that maybe emblematic of many others: the case of Evgenii Zhovtis, Kazakhstan's most well-known human rights activist.

Zhovtis is the Director of the Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law and even a member of the OSCE Office for

Democratic Institutions and Human Rights' panel of experts on freedom of assembly. But he was involved in a tragic car accident in which a pedestrian was killed and, after a trial widely condemned for lacking due process, he was sentenced in 2009 to 4 years in prison.

A year ago, at the OSCE Summit in Astana, civil society activists called for Zhovtis' release. As one NGO participant remarked:

Evgenii is the human rights Everyman. If this can happen to him, it can happen to anyone.

A year later, Evgenii Zhovtis remains in a Siberian penal colony, even as Kazakhstan prepares to host an OSCE election observation mission. In the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, I once again urge President Nazarbayev to review his case and to release him.

Thank you.

TRIBUTE TO JOAN MCKINNEY

Ms. LANDRIEU. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to Joan McKinney, who has been a beloved and respected mainstay of the Senate Press Gallery for almost 40 years.

Joan retired recently after a decade of service on the Press Gallery staff. Prior to that, she served the people of my home State of Louisiana for 2½ decades as Washington correspondent for the Baton Rouge Advocate.

Joan is originally from Greenville, SC, and is a graduate of Winthrop College. She came to Washington in 1971 to work on the press staff of our dear colleague Senator Fritz Hollings.

As her career advanced, she chose to return to journalism, working first as a reporter for the Greenville News, where her father served as editor, and then for another paper from my home state, the Shreveport Journal.

Joan was hired away by the Advocate when she continually beat the Advocate's reporter—who happened to be the son of the publisher—on stories. I came to know and respect Joan during our many hallway meetings that so often occur between Members and the press. I also had the great fortune of getting to know her as a person and as a friend.

In her tenure as the Advocate's congressional correspondent, Joan came to be well respected by members of the Louisiana delegation from both parties. The Members from my State knew her as fair-handed and tough, and most of all, that there was nothing, nothing that could get by her.

Through her work, Joan became an expert on the intricacies of the Senate and the Supreme Court. She took this knowledge with her into her role as a member of the Senate daily press gallery staff. I know her Senate acumen on the institution and its procedure was of great value to the reporters roaming the gallery who relied on her for deep insight about the Chamber they cover.

Joan, who has won reporting awards from the South Carolina and Louisiana press associations, is a longtime member of the elite Gridiron Club of newspaper writers. She was one of the first women to become a member.

I know that one of Joan's biggest interests is dance, something I am told she plans to be very active with in retirement. Long before "American Idol" and "So You Think You Can Dance," Joan was an excellent competitive dancer. Her specialty is Shag, a regional dance popular in the Carolinas.

This year, Joan won her first national Shag championship. With more time to practice, I am sure more dance titles are on the way.

For those of us who have been fortunate to work with Joan, it is almost impossible to imagine the Press Gallery without her. But I know I join the entire Senate press corps in wishing Joan the best as she embarks on this new adventure in her life.

Joan, thank you for sharing with this institution and our entire country your knowledge, experience and good heart. All of us are better as a result of your service to the best ideals of our democracy.

CROWDFUNDING

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to address a promising new idea for investors and small businesses: crowdfunding.

In recent years, small businesses and startup companies have struggled to raise capital. The traditional methods of raising capital have become increasingly out of reach for many startups and small businesses. There is another option, but Congress must act to authorize it and provide for appropriate safeguards.

Low-dollar investments from ordinary Americans may help fill the void, providing a new avenue of funding to the small businesses that are the engine of job creation. The CROWDFUND Act would provide startup companies and other small businesses with a new way to raise capital from ordinary investors in a more transparent and regulated marketplace.

The promise of crowdfunding is that investments in small amounts, made through transparent online forums, can allow the "wisdom of the crowd" to provide funding for small, innovative companies. It allows ordinary Americans to get in on the ground floor of the next big idea. It is American entrepreneurship at its best, which is why it has the support of the President and many in the business community.

That said, there are real risks of investment losses at a rate far beyond ordinary investing. Crowdfunding, if done without proper oversight, provides significant opportunity for fraud. Indeed, it was not too long ago that our financial regulators were doing daily battle with scam artists pitching huge returns on fraudulent schemes through small, unregistered securities.

That is why the CROWDFUND Act will tap the opportunity of crowd-funding while reducing the risks.

The CROWDFUND Act provides a capital-raising alternative for startups and other small businesses, while not undercutting essential investor protections. It allows companies to raise up to \$1 million each year from ordinary Americans. It provides more disclosure, more accountability and accuracy, and limits the exposure of any individual investor.

I thank my colleague Senator BENNET for joining me in this effort, and I hope to partner with more of my colleagues to move this idea forward in the days to come.

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTOPHER L. CUGINI

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize Christopher L. Cugini, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

Chris is a graduate of Glen Oak High School in Canton, OH. Currently, he is attending the University of Mount Union in Alliance, OH, where he is majoring in communication. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Chris for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT CUYLER HASKINS

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize Robert Cuyler Haskins, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

Cuyler is a graduate of L.D. Bell High School in Hurst, TX. Currently, he is attending Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, TX, where he is majoring in political science. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Cuyler for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO KATI M. SEYMOUR

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize Kati M. Seymour, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

Kati is a graduate of Jones County High School in Murdo, SD. This past August, Kati graduated from Sinte Gleska University in Mission, SD,

where she majored in English and American history. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Kati for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO MICHELLE MATTHIES

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize Michelle Matthies, an intern in my Sioux Falls, SD, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

Michelle is a graduate of Parker High School in Parker, SD. Currently, she is attending Augustana College, where she is majoring in English and secondary education. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Michelle for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING ELDEN HUGHES

• Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, last weekend California and the Nation lost one of our great environmental champions when Elden Hughes died at his desert home in Joshua Tree, CA, at age 80.

As a longtime activist with the Sierra Club and former president of its Angeles Chapter, Elden led successful campaigns to protect California's wild rivers and preserve the historic Union Pacific Railroad depot in the desert town of Kelso, CA.

But Elden Hughes is best known and fondly remembered as one of the tireless leaders of the long grassroots effort to enact the 1994 California Desert Protection Act, which created a new national park in the Eastern Mojave Desert and established higher levels of protection for Death Valley, Joshua Tree, and other desert lands.

Elden was born in 1931 in Whittier, CA, the son of cattle farmers from Modoc County. When he was 13, the family moved out of town and bought a ranch where Elden made enough money raising hogs to buy an old car and begin a lifetime of exploring California's wild places. After earning his way through college, he worked in the family plumbing supply business, which he then sold to become the executive vice president of a major computer service company.

Elden's interest in river-running, spelunking, archaeology, nature photography, and the desert led him to join Sierra Club expeditions and gradually become involved in the club's conservation activities. In the early 1980s, he led a grassroots letter-writing cam-

paign that convinced California Senator Pete Wilson to sponsor "wild and scenic" designation for a major stretch of the Tuolumne River. In the late 1980s, Elden led the successful "three rivers campaign" that obtained wild and scenic designations for portions of the Kings, Kern, and Merced Rivers.

Elden worked with Congressman JERRY LEWIS to save the historic Kelso Depot, in what was then the Eastern Mojave National Scenic Area. Showing their usual flair and creativity, Elvin and his wife Patty galvanized public opinion on the depot issue by convincing Amtrak to run a special "Desert Wind" train from Los Angeles to Kelso, where Elden led the crowd in singing railroad songs.

In 1986, as the new chair of the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter, Elden was invited to attend a press conference on the introduction of the first Desert Bill, authored by Senator Alan Cranston. He brought along some of his photos of the Mojave and was soon leading a group of amateur photographers on a 2-year project cataloguing the fragile beauty of this unique natural area.

In 1990, Elden retired from business to become the west coast spokesman for the Desert Bill. He was a natural, and the media loved him. As Frank Wheat noted in his book "California Desert Miracle," Elden was also "knowledgeable, quotable, pleasant to be with, and willing to go to great lengths to show members of the press what the Desert Bill was intended to protect. Soon he was drawing reporters as a lamp draws moths."

Meanwhile, Elden and Patty had adopted a pair of abandoned pet tortoises and successfully bred a new family. When the babies were 5 months old, Elden and Patty took them on a cross-country tour to raise media and public interest in protecting the desert tortoise. Over the years, they made nine trips to Washington, DC, to gain congressional support for the Desert Bill. Once, when an airline security guard told them they couldn't bring pet tortoises on the plane, Patty said, "They aren't pets, they're lobbyists."

Finally, in 1994, Congress passed the California Desert Protection Act, and I was proud to cosponsor this bill with Senator FEINSTEIN. Elden Hughes was instrumental in passing this landmark legislation. Today, the Mojave National Preserve and the Kelso Depot stand as monuments to this joyous, creative, and inexhaustible man who did so much to protect California's priceless natural heritage.

On behalf of the people of California, who have benefitted so much from Elden's life work, I send my deepest gratitude and condolences to his wife Patty; his sons, Mark, Paul, and Charles; and his three grandchildren.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 9:39 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by